




President Bush's message to the military

Our commander-in-chief takes the time to pen a few words to our armed forces.

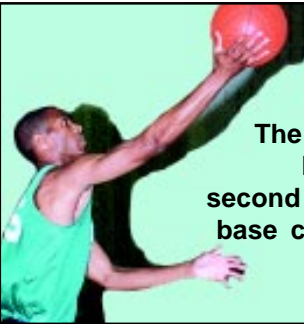
Page 2



Tuskegee Airman remembers

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Dan Summers shares his memories as a Tuskegee Airman in this Black History Month feature.

Page 14



YA defends base basketball title

The 311th Human Systems Program Office won its second consecutive intramural base championship Feb. 9 by beating MSS, 50-39.

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The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 25, No. 3 -- Friday, Feb. 16, 2001 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Brooks one of six commissaries to close

Brooks facility to close end of September

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Commissary Agency will close six stateside stores this spring and fall as part of ongoing efforts to infuse better business practices across the organization.

Agency spokesman Tim Ford said Feb. 1 that DeCA recently completed a thorough review of its stores “to make sure the commissary benefit continues to be delivered in the most effective and efficient manner.”

According to Ford, stores marked for closure are Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and Kelly AFB, Texas, April 13; the Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Va., April 14; Sierra Army Depot, Calif., April 15; Brooks, Sept. 28; and Cutler Naval Computer Telecommunications Station, Machias, Maine, Sept. 29.

“Closing these commissaries, which altogether cost about \$4 million a year to operate, will help DeCA improve the overall benefit,” Ford said. “In many cases we can focus our efforts on stores able to serve more patrons with more groceries on the shelves and top-notch produce, meat, deli and bakery departments.”

The closures were approved after consulting the affected military service, the Commissary Operating Board, whose members represent each of the services, the DoD staff and Congress, Ford said.

See COMMISSARY CLOSES, Page 10

To the Brooks Family



By now most of you have heard about the recent official announcement about our commissary closing on the first of October of this year. While this came as a surprise to many, the truth is that Dr. Brendan Godfrey (311th Human Systems Wing director), Col. Roy Ruff (311th HSW vice commander) and I have known about the possibility of the closure for some months and have been actively fighting it, though unsuccessfully.

When we first heard about the planned closure, it had already been taken by DeCA to the Armed Forces Commissary Board, approved, and signed at the DoD leadership level. We started far behind the power curve in trying to turn the decision around. Still, we went to Gen. Lester Lyles (Air Force Materiel Command commander) with the argument that our commissary is extremely important to our permanent party dorm residents, our tech school students, the residents of our base housing, and the retirees. We also argued that the point of the commissary is as a benefit and not as a money-making operation, and we should not be penalized if the profit margin at our small store is not as great as at the larger operations in town. Gen. Lyles, in turn, took the issue to the Vice CSAF without success.

Even our elected officials in DC — when they discovered the closure plan — investigated the possibility of keeping our store open and concluded it was not doable.

DECA, like all federal agencies, has the challenge of trying to maintain facilities and modernize without all the necessary resources. For DECA to survive, the DECA leadership must make some tough decisions, and we were one of those decisions.

So I wanted to tell you all three things. First, this closure has absolutely nothing to do with the Brooks City-Base Project. We certainly did not initiate this locally.

Second, we have tried very hard to turn this off but simply were not successful.

Third, Col. Ruff is leading the charge to see what might be done to increase the availability of key food items elsewhere on base. We do not know exactly what might be done, but we are trying.

I am sorry I was not able to keep this benefit on Brooks. I will do all that I can to minimize the pain from the loss of our commissary.

LLOYD E. DODD, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF, MC, CFS
Commander, 311th Human Systems Wing



And they danced like this ...
As the children wave their arms to illustrate the story, Mona Brown reads to a group of 3-5 year olds in the Brooks Child Development Center Feb. 6. Brenda

Goldsmith also read stories during the storytelling hour to toddlers and 2-3 year-olds. This activity is one of many scheduled during Black History Month. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson)



The *Discovery* is published by **Prime Time Inc.**, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks Air Force Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Suite 116, Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5120 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be e-mailed to steve.vanwert@brooks.af.mil or discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to **Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.**

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Graphics & Printing Services:

Prime Time Graphics

Christopher Press (Web printing)

The *Discovery* is online.
Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

Commentary

President's message to the armed forces of the United States

To the armed forces of the United States and the men and women whose work supports them: your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary.

Because of you, America is strong and the flame of freedom burns brighter than at any time in history. Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure, but we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service.

As your commander-in-chief, I will always support you and your families so this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world.

Thank you.

President George W. Bush



President Bush prepares to review the troops at Ft. Stewart, Ga., Feb. 12, during his first visit to a military base since his inauguration Jan. 20. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Rhem)

It all started with George

FROM THE VANTAGE Point



By Steve VanWert

Discovery editor

Comments?

steve.vanwert@brooks.af.mil

Back in the late 1790s, citizens of the fledgling nation called the United States didn't have many holidays. And not just because life was generally harder in those days and men and women worked longer hours with fewer opportunities for leisure than we have today. The truth is that there wasn't much to celebrate. There was Thanksgiving and Christmas and the Fourth of July and ... what else?

Something had to be done. It all started with George Washington. In 1796, the last full year of his presidency, people began celebrating the first president's birthday. But even that became confusing. According to the old style calendar used in the early 18th century, Washington's birthday was Feb. 11. But some people were using the new calendar, so by the middle of the century, Washington's birthday was celebrated Feb. 22.

First reveler: "Happy Washington's Birthday!"

Second reveler: "We celebrated that holiday 11 days ago."

First reveler: "Does that mean I missed the white sales?"

Anyway, by the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had taken firm root in the American consciousness as a bona fide national holiday. Americans held "Birthnight Balls" in various regions. Political figures, both large and small, gave speeches and held receptions and more than a glass or two was raised in taverns throughout the countryside. And it was finally settled as to what day to celebrate: Feb. 22.

First reveler: "Happy Washington's Birthday!"

Second reveler: "Is this the date?"

First reveler: "Hey, just because you bought me a toddy doesn't mean this is a date!"

Everything was copacetic. And then along came Abraham Lincoln, another February birthday boy. In 1865, the year of his assassination, people began celebrating his birthday. On Feb. 12, both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. The Great Emancipator's

birthday remained a popular American holiday from that point on, although it never officially became a federal holiday like Washington's.

More than 100 years later, in 1968, the House of Representatives enacted HR 15951, which affected federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observance of which was shifted to the third Monday in February each year, whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to give federal employees (us) some standard three-day weekends.

Washington's Birthday soon became known as "President's Day," even though it was never officially designated that, except by the Office of Personnel Management, which is good enough for us government employees. Soon, "President's Day" consumed Lincoln's Birthday as well and has become a day to honor both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served in our nation's highest office.

First reveler: "Happy Washington's Birthday!"

Second reveler: "It's not Washington's Birthday."

First reveler: "Okay. Happy Lincoln's Birthday!"

Second reveler: "It's not Lincoln's Birthday, either."

First reveler: "Happy Truman's Day?"

Second reveler: "No, it's President's Day."

First reveler: "I didn't miss the white sales again, did I?"

Have a fun and safe third Monday in February. And you can celebrate any president you like.



OJT doesn't mean 'stand by Staff Sgt. Oldtimer'

By Master Sgt. Michael Nauls
Brooks base training manager

"OJT" doesn't mean "sit by Staff Sgt. Oldtimer." On-the-job training requires just as much planning as any other training method. Trainees learn by doing. You can teach concepts in a classroom, but if you want trainees to be able to do the physical tasks of running machines and keeping production going in your work center, at some point you're going to have to let them do the task unassisted. Will they be ready? Your squadron's productivity and quality depend on it.

Of course, you can always have the new guy go sit by SSgt. Oldtimer. After all, SSgt. Oldtimer's been doing the job for years. He'll show him how it's done. Unfortunately, SSgt. Oldtimer is busy trying to do his own work. Even if he knows the job inside and out, he may not have the time or skills to effectively teach it to someone else. So your new trainees will fumble along, learning what they can, making mistakes, and picking up SSgt. Oldtimer's bad habits along with the good ones.

All too often, that's the extent of the planning that goes into on-the-job training. It can be a tempting scenario, because it gives the illusion of

getting something for nothing — no expenses, no trainer's fees, no paperwork, and yet the trainee is out on the floor somehow getting the job done. But the cost in potential mistakes, rework, scrap, inefficiencies, noncompliance, and safety violations can be high.

Unstructured OJT doesn't work

Unstructured OJT doesn't work; it's too hit or miss. But done correctly, OJT offers a number of advantages: it's inexpensive, quickly developed, takes place in the work center and focuses on tasks that are directly related to the job. You can use an experienced airman rather than a professional trainer to do OJT, as long as the trainer is trained first in effective training methods. All trainers and certifiers must attend the Air Force Training Course.

If it's time for your squadron to evolve out of the "go-sit-by-SSgt. Oldtimer" "school of OJT," here are the steps to take:

- 1. Make a plan:** Figure out whether you really need training, what your goals are, and how you're going to evaluate the program, as well as details of who will get trained, who will do the training, and what topics will be covered.
- 2. Develop a training requirements list and master training plan:** The TRL is a detailed list of all the tasks the trainee must be able to perform to do their job, but aren't trained and qualified cannot on.

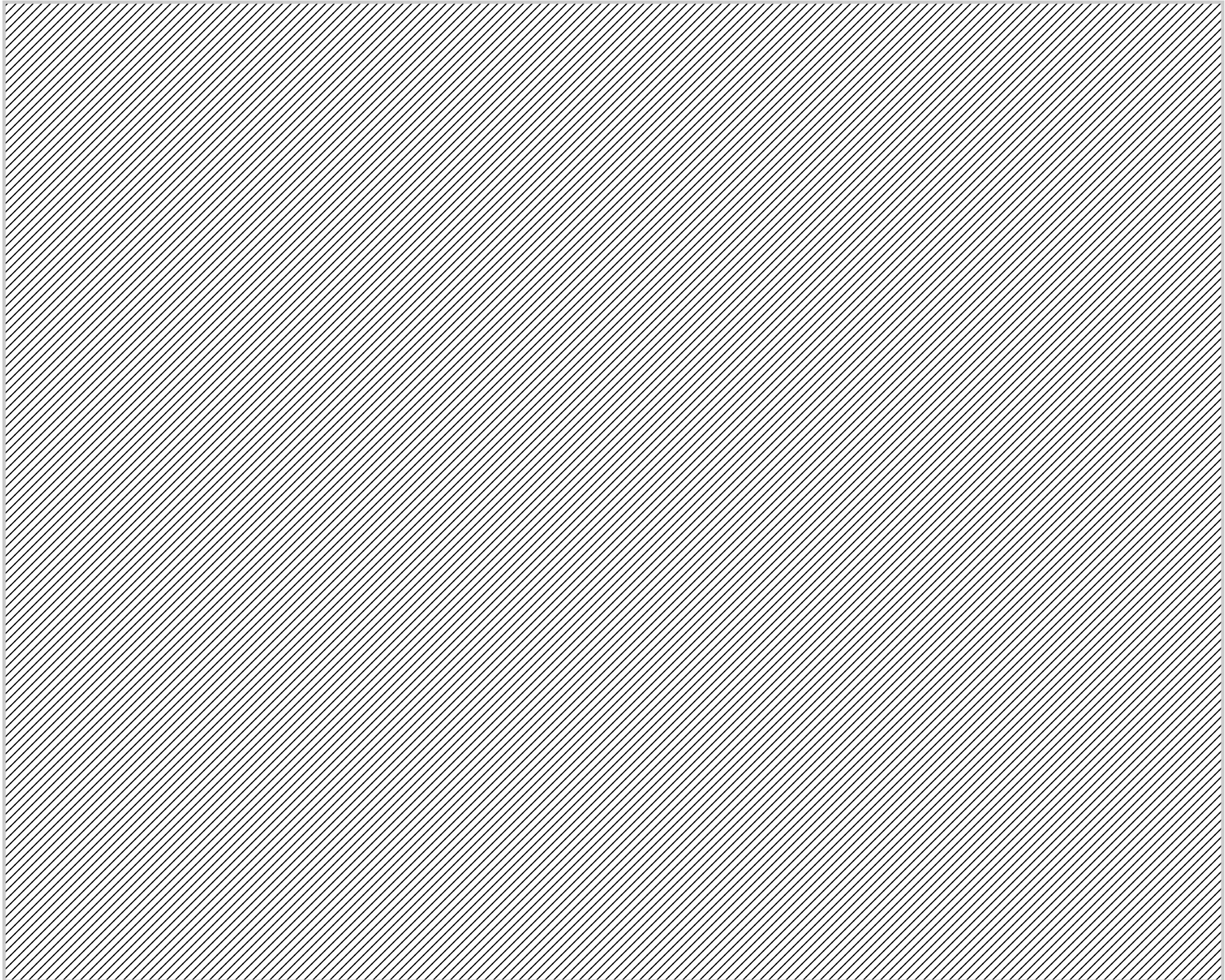
The MTP should include a "performance objective" for each task that describes when and under what conditions the task should be performed as well as what the standards are for successful completion.

- 3. Develop job aids:** Used during training and/or on the job, job aids are step-by-step instructions or checklists that guide the trainee through the correct way of performing a task. They should include guidelines for trainees to check their own work. Do not reinvent the wheel; there are already many job aids out there waiting to be modified and used. Here are two:
 - Task analysis:** TAs are excellent tools for enhancing and standardizing OJT programs. Each TA has a breakdown of activities, skills, and knowledge needed to the task, in addition to other descriptive information. Trainers can modify TAs with the requirements of their unit.
 - Qualification Training Package:** QTPs were developed to enhance OJT by providing trainers a breakdown of tasks into teachable elements. They will aid task certifiers by providing performance checklist to use during certification.
- 4. Make a schedule:** A training schedule helps you organize your OJT and document who has and has not been trained for any given task.
- 5. Develop a lesson plan:** This is an outline of how the lesson is to be taught and what is to be included, to ensure that your trainers teach each task correctly and consistently every time.

After the session

After the training session is done, the trainer should do a task evaluation on each trainee to verify that he or she are capable and competent to perform tasks in terms of procedures, timeliness, performance, and so forth

For more information and assistance contact the base training manager at 536-6973.





Air Force news

ABL program uses balloons to gather turbulence data



Lt. Col. John Roadcap, a technical adviser with the Air Force Research Laboratory, prepares a balloon for testing atmospheric conditions. The research is being completed as part of the Airborne Laser program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook)

By Staff Sgt. Cindy York
Air Force Print News

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — It sounds like something a child would love to do. Staying up all night, building something out of foam, cardboard and wires, powering it with batteries and then attaching it to a huge balloon. The most exciting part of the night, however, is letting the 6-foot-wide balloon go into the air, willing it to make it past electric lines so as not to knock the power out ... again.

Actually, this job is no small task and the implications from doing it wrong could be costly. Balloons launched here and from Doha, Qatar, provide vital information for the Airborne Laser Program.

Working hand-in-hand with specialists from the 452nd Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland AFB, N.M., and the 452nd's Detachment 2 at Kirtland, three specialists from Hanscom AFB, Mass., are gathering information to help understand atmospheric turbulence — an initial nemesis of the ABL.

After several years of sending balloons in to the air from here and Doha, Lt. Col. John Roadcap,

technical advisor in the tactical environment support branch at the AFRL at Hanscom, along with Air Force contractors Kris Robinson and George Clement, have their craft down to an art.

It takes only a short time to get their three "payloads" ready each night. Four pounds of foam, plastic, wire and batteries are attached to the end of a 330-foot-long nylon line, which is then attached to a large balloon. Inside the payload is the equipment to transmit current levels of temperature, air pressure and humidity, and very small temperature differences measured across the length of the package.

As the balloon rises at a rate of about 16 feet per second, it sends this information to the ground station, which records these atmospheric conditions. This information, along with the star optical measurements collected from the aircraft, is used to determine the optical turbulence in the atmosphere.

The balloons are launched at the same time the C-135E Argus is in the air gathering atmospheric turbulence data at about 45,000 feet. It's important the two sets of data be collected concurrently so the data is interpreted with the same atmospheric conditions, according to Roadcap. If the balloons run into power lines or otherwise don't

collect their data, the information recorded during the Argus flight might not be as useful.

"Without the vertical data the balloons collect, it will be difficult to interpret the star measurements," Roadcap said. "We need to understand why, when we're looking at the stars from certain elevation angles, that the atmospheric turbulence values are increasing or decreasing."

Roadcap said collecting data from the balloons is crucial to the ABL program. "This is very important," Roadcap said. "We need to know everything we can about the atmosphere and its possible effects on the laser because this is the way of the future."

The results from the testing will help with the employment of the airborne laser, a key player in the nation's theater missile defense strategy. When fully operational in 2008, the ABL will be the primary weapon used to attack theater ballistic missiles during their boost phase. It will destroy them early in flight before their warheads have an opportunity to separate from the boost vehicle.

With this strategy, the warheads and destroyed missile components will fall back on enemy territory, exposing them to whatever warhead they employed.



Air Force surgeon general: One suicide is one too many

By Leigh Anne Bierstine
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — One Air Force suicide is one suicide too many, according to Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton, Air Force surgeon general.

The surgeon general is trying to combat suicides by instilling in every Air Force member that it is a community problem. That philosophy is the basis for the Air Force's community approach to suicide prevention.

"We have to stop thinking of suicide prevention as something only mental health professionals do," Carlton said.

"All of us have a responsibility to our fellow airmen and coworkers," he explained. "Recognizing when a person is having problems and actively encouraging that person to seek help is a vital part of suicide prevention.

"We lose too many airmen to suicide in the Air Force, and it is preventable," he said. "Whatever the numbers are, we can never stop being proactive and declare victory. Instead we must continue our efforts."



Carlton

Today, the Air Force is using a prevention team called the integrated delivery system that includes chaplains and professionals from mental health, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers, and family advocacy, all working together and taking responsibility for enhancing community health and well-being.

To date, suicide prevention efforts include an emphasis on involving and training Air Force leadership, and on buddy care and annual suicide prevention training for all military and civilians.

The Air Force is not alone in its battle against suicide. David Satcher, surgeon general of the United States, described suicide as a "serious public health problem." Nearly 31,000 people commit suicide annually in the United States. Twenty-one active-duty Air Force people committed suicide in 2000, according to the casualty services branch of the Air Force Personnel Center.

Raising suicide awareness is not enough, according to Lt. Col. Wayne Talcott, who leads the Air Force's suicide prevention team.

"Our pilots are responsible for early signs of problems with their jet engines, so mechanics can intervene before engine failure occurs," Talcott said. "In the same way, we expect our commanders, first sergeants and supervisors at every level to be responsible for their coworkers and watch for early signs of problems so we can intervene early."

Talcott suggest people be alert for the following warning signs that may signal suicide intent:

- Preoccupied with death and dying;
- Talk about committing suicide;
- Make final arrangements for death;
- Trouble eating or sleeping;
- Drastic changes in behavior;
- Withdrawal from friends or social activities;
- Loss of interest in work, school, etc.;
- Give away prized possessions;
- Take unnecessary risks;
- Loss of interest in personal appearance; and
- Increased use of alcohol and drugs.

For more information on what to do if a member encounters someone with these signs, immediately contact an appropriate integrated delivery system representative: the chaplain's office, family support center, behavioral health clinic, family advocacy, or health and wellness center.





Brooks offers Summer Day Camp

Brooks Youth Services offers a Full Day Summer Camp program. The camp normally runs in conjunction with the San Antonio Independent School District's schedule. This year, their summer schedule is June 1-Aug. 15. The Brooks camp will run from June 1-Aug. 17.

Registration will be open April 2-20 to active duty military on Brooks. Office hours are from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration will be opened to all active duty military, DoD civilians, retired military, Reservists on active duty and contractors April 23 and continue until all spaces have been filled. After spaces

are full, children will be placed on a waiting list, to be placed in camp as spaces become available.

Parents must sign up for the weeks they need. Brooks policy is that parents pay for the weeks they sign up for. If parents sign for weeks they do not need, they must submit the weeks they no longer need in advance so that those weeks may be offered to other parents. This must be done either in writing, by email, fax or in person.

Any parent interested in reserving a space at Brooks Full Day Summer Camp, call 536-2515 for more information.

SATO: the place to go if you want to get going

By Cerise Fenton

Discovery staff writer

Comments? cerise.fenton@brooks.af.mil

It's no secret that traveling can be pretty stressful. Government travel, with the additional paperwork and unique rules and regulations, is certainly no exception.

Although there are steps in place to simplify the process, there continues to be a problem in the SATO travel section with processing and issuing tickets, creating frustration for everyone.

"The problem is that SATO travel has approximately 200 tickets to process and issue in addition to receiving 200 telephone and tax reservations and changes to reservations each week.

About 40-50 percent of those transactions are done on the last day of the week, resulting in long lines, typing up phone lines, and people can't get in to check on their tickets, so it becomes difficult," said John Ashjian, Brooks director of logistics.

"I don't think that people realize how much of our work is done on the last day of the week, and hopefully this will make them aware," said Ashjian.

According to Ashjian and Brooks transportation manager, Bob Villarreal, SATO is addressing the problems, but there are several things customers can do to help.

"We suggest people try to minimize picking up their tickets on the last day of the week," said Villarreal.

To avoid delays, they recommend claiming tickets up to one week prior to travel, but no earlier than that.

"We realize it's a balancing act," said Ashjian. "If you pick them up too early the plans can change, and if you pick them up too late you're going to have a whole bunch of people over at SATO trying to get their tickets on the last day, especially folks who are traveling on Monday."

To further speed the process, TMO will accept faxed travel orders, and forward them to SATO for ticket issue. Customers are welcome to include a specific date and time they would like to pick up their tickets and SATO will do their best to meet that time.

Often, runners are sent to retrieve tickets. In order for a runner to pick up tickets, he or she must either have a current letter on file at SATO or carry an authorization letter signed by the traveler that references the travel card number. It is the unit and traveler responsibility to update their letters and provide a copy to SATO travel. Unit coordinators and cardholders should both be aware of card expiration dates.

SATO is also receiving complaints about telephone congestion. With only four phone lines, customers often hear a recorded message asking them to hold for the next available employee. Calls are answered in the order they are received so customers are urged to stay on the line. Hanging up and calling back creates more congestion and places the caller at the end of the line.

Villarreal believes informing the base population of the situation will alleviate most of the problem. However, if anyone feels that they have not received good service, or been treated discourteously, they can contact Ashjian at 536-3541.

Travel orders can be faxed to TMO at 536-8451, and verified through SATO at 536-1800.

We **SALUTE** you!

10 win command medical service awards; AFIERA wins 2000 laboratory team award

The following Brooks people won Air Force Materiel Command Medical Service Awards for 2000:

Public Health Staff NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Robert Gudgel
USAFSAM

Outstanding Medical Readiness
NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Therese Huss
U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine

Outstanding Field Grade Bioenvironmental Engineer of the Year
Maj. Todd Joachim
AFIERA

Outstanding Medical Readiness
Officer of the Year
Capt. Matt Wyatt
USAFSAM

Outstanding Company Grade
Bioenvironmental Engineer of the Year
Capt. Jay Vietas
USAFSAM

Air Force Clinical Laboratory Scientist of the Year
Lt. Col. William Huff
Air Force Institute for Environment,
Safety and Occupational Health
Risk Analysis

Outstanding Bioenvironmental
Engineering Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Brian Saunders
AFIERA

Air Force Laboratory Team Award
**Epidemiological Surveillance
Division, AFIERA**

Outstanding Bioenvironmental
Engineering NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. James Jarbeau Jr.
AFIERA

Public Health Staff Officer of the Year
Lt. Col. Roger Gibson
AFIERA

Olson-Wagner Award for Outstanding
Aeromedical NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Allison Heintzelman
USAFSAM

Twin ceremony lauds CC award winners

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Comments?

rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil

For only the second time in Brooks history, the base's highest honor has been presented to two separate winners simultaneously.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presented the Commander's Award last week to the Air Force Health Study (Ranch Hand) Team for December and the 311th Medical Squadron, the January recipient.

Holidays and scheduling conflicts led to this twin ceremony.

The AFHS Team, principally composed of 311th Human Systems Program Office and Air Force Research Laboratory personnel, earned the award on the strength of their work that consolidated and made universally available a massive epidemiological research computer database compiled over a 40-year period. Primarily containing information on health effects related to environmental hazards, the database is considered the largest developed for any federal health study.

Other organizations represented on the 55-member team include the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

The 311th MDS joined a small group of multiple award winners when it captured its second Commander's Award. The squadron previously earned the honor in 1998.

According to Lt. Col. Donald Sampson, 311th MDS commander, his organization was selected based on several accomplishments. Among the more significant contributions the squadron made was becoming one of the first Air Force medical treatment facilities to complete implementation of the Air Force Surgeon General's Primary Care Optimization initiative. "These programs were designed to promote a patient-staff partnership in health management, ensure continuity of care and align support resources to optimize primary care operations. Access to care has dramatically improved. Routine appointments are now available within one to two days, and acutely ill patients are seen the same day," Sampson said, explaining that the TRICARE standard is one week.

Other accomplishments that helped earn the award was the squadron's Bioenvironmental Engineering Element that was instrumental in the cleanup and environmental assessment of the T-6 crash near Stinson Field, and the organization's future plans to further enhance customer service with the implementation of new appointment reminder and pharmacy robotics systems.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Transportation Squadron.....	536-2599
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626



Name: **1st Lt. Jessica Joyner**

Unit: **Squadron Section commander, 311th Air Base Group**

Date arrived on station: **Feb. 5, 1999**

Date assumed command: **Feb. 5, 2001**

Time in service: **2 years**

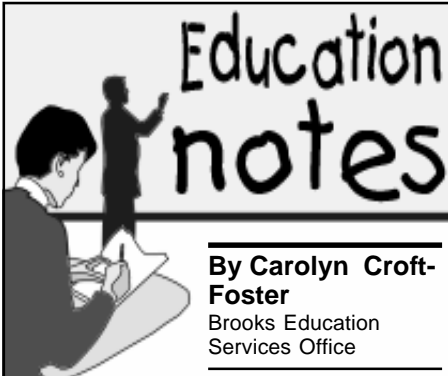
Words to live by: **"If a man has not first found something worth dying for, indeed he has nothing to live for."**

Key processes: **Weight management program, fitness assessment, enlisted and officer performance reports, deco-**

rations, urinalysis, leave management, adverse actions, etc.

Unit goals:

- 1. Operate personnel programs for Brooks — service includes; 311th Human Systems Wing, 311th ABG, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Health Risk Analysis, and 311th HSW/YA;**
- 2. Take care of our people and enable them to excel;**
- 3. Satisfy customer needs and exceed their expectations;**
- 4. Enhance the excellence of our business practices; and**
- 5. Enhance our warfighter's competitive edge.**



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education
Services Office

One-year ROTC approved

Air Force ROTC is offering an opportunity to qualified enlisted people who can graduate with at least a bachelor's degree in any academic major in fiscal 2002. This program is also open to individuals wishing to pursue a graduate degree or those who can who combine undergraduate and graduate studies.

Applicants who meet age requirements may also be offered scholarships to pay for tuition and books. To qualify, an enlisted member must be able to complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree prior to age 35 and no later than Sept. 30, 2002.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3617.

ASCP/POC-ERP scholarship

Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program and Professional Officer Corps-Early Release Program are accepting applications for ROTC scholarships until March 15.

Airmen interested in attending school full time and earning an AF commission should visit education services to learn about application requirements. Call 536-3617 for an appointment.

OTS

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelors degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. The next deadline for applications is March 20. For more information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

PME time out change

Since Jan. 15, students disenrolled from EPME distance learning programs for nonparticipation (enrollment expiration prior to course completion) will incur a one-year enrollment restriction. This is a change from the previous six-month enrollment restriction for nonparticipating disenrollment.

Students already serving an imposed six-month restriction at the time of this change are not affected. Students disenrolled for course failure (academic failure) and those who voluntarily disenroll (disenrollment at student request) will continue to incur a six-month restriction.

Additionally, the Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning will reflect these changes in the EPME eligibility criteria in their course catalog, which is available at http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afiadl/curriculum/catalog/cattoc_fr.htm.

NEWS briefs

Brooks tax center opens

The Brooks tax center is in operation through April 12. It is located in Bldg. 130, Room 149A. Hours are 8-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 1-6 p.m. Thursday.

The volunteer tax assistance representatives offer free electronic filing of tax returns (by appointment only), state and federal tax forms and answers to basic income tax questions. These services are available for all active duty and retired military and their family members.

Call 536-2775 for more information.

Annual awards banquet

The annual military awards banquet, where Brooks will salute its finest airmen, NCOs, officers and civilians for 2000, begins at 5:30 p.m., with the program starting at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Brooks Club. Tickets are \$10 for E-1-E-4, O-1, and GS-1-GS-6; \$17 for E-5-E-8, O-2-O-5, and GS-7-GS-12; and \$21.50 for E-9, O-6 and higher, and GS-13 and higher.

Brooks first sergeants have tickets and menu choices.

Promotion ceremony

Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is be at 3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Brooks Club. Col. Roy Ruff Jr., 311th Human Systems Wing vice-commander, will be the presiding officer. The ceremony will recognize enlisted people being promoted in March. The ceremony is open to all base people.

CGOC visits Audie Murphy

The Company Grade Officer Council will visit the Audie Murphy VA Hospital from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 26. Members will visit the veterans and provide baked goods. All base people are invited to join in.

If interested, call Capt. Risa Riepma at 536-2581.

Children's dental screenings

The Lackland Air Force Base Pediatric Dental Department provides free drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries.

Children 14 years old or younger are seen from 8-11 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Appointments are not necessary. The screenings include a dental exam with treatment recommendations.

Upcoming dates for this service are Feb. 22 in the Sky Lark Community Activity Center and March 28, April 11, May 9, June 13 and July 11 in Arnold Hall, Bldg. 5506. Both locations are on Lackland AFB.

Call Col. (Dr.) Jeff Mabry or Airman 1st Class Marnie Thetford at 292-3327 or 292-3342 for more information.

Hap Arnold education grant

The Air Force Aid Society awarded more than \$7.5 million in education grants during 2000 to 5,000 college students. But some Air Force families still feel they won't qualify for the grant program. But that's just not so, according to Society officials.

The Society has tailored the program to adjust need measurements based on reasonable standards that fit most Air Force families.

Call the AFAS at 536-2444 to get an application for these \$1,500 college grants.

Science Fair judges needed

The 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs office is looking for people at Brooks to serve as judges for local school science fairs this spring.

If interested, call or email Ed Shannon at 536-5140 and provide your name, organization and duty phone. Eight Brooks volunteers supported more than 1,200 students by serving as judges at a half dozen science fairs last year.

'Wild Flossers' can win prizes

As part of National Children's Dental Health Month, the Brooks Clinic is holding a "Wild Flossers" contest. All a contestant needs to do is guess the number of "Wild Flossers" in a jar located in the base dental clinic waiting room.

"Wild Flossers" are shaped like alligators and other animals, with an open mouth that holds a tiny piece of dental floss.

The closest guess without going too high wins two \$20 power cards from Dave and Busters Restaurant in San Antonio.

The contest ends Feb. 28. All military and civilian workers at Brooks are eligible. Only one guess per person.

Industry Day

The 311th Human Systems Wing/PK Impac team is sponsoring an Industry Day March 1 in the Brooks Club. Numerous vendors will be available to discuss the latest in office supplies, office furniture, compute hardware and software, office automation equipment, and more.

Industry Day is free. There will also be free refreshments and door prizes.

Brooks Spouses Club plans to shop

The Brooks Spouses Club is taking a trip to Gruene, Texas, for lunch and shopping. The group will leave Brooks at 9 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m.

Call Kate Dodd at 337-9218 for reservations or questions.

RBFCU changes hours

Beginning March 1, the Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union's Brooks branch's hours will be: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. for drive-through and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for lobby.

Military Community Job Fair

Are you looking for a new job? Do you want to know if your skills are marketable land what they're worth? Do you just want to know what's "out there?"

Whether you are looking for employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, you can go to the semiannual San Antonio Military Community Job Fair from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. March 21 in the Live Oak Civic Center, located at the junction of IH-35 and Pat Booker Road in Live Oak, Texas.

Hangar 9 Toastmasters

The Hangar 9 Toastmasters Club meets from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the base chapel annex.

Call Richard Young at 536-4464 or Dario Beniquez at 536-4492 for more information.

Retiree Activities Office

The Brooks RAO serves the needs of retired enlisted and officers members, as well as active duty members preparing for retirement.

The office, located in Bldg. 570B, Room 13B, is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

Call 536-6418 for more information.

Commissary hours

The Brooks Comm-issary's normal hours are:

- 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday and Friday
- 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday
- 7-9 a.m., Monday-Friday for 15 items or less.

22nd MAS reunion

The 22nd Military Airlift Squadron will have a reunion May 1-3 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Call Ray Daley at (937) 323-6304.

Career information from the CAA

By Master Sgt. Georgia Royster
Brooks Career Assistance Advisor

Starting this year, many of you who entered active duty after Aug. 1, 1986, have to make a major decision about your retirement plan options. You may either accept a \$30,000 Career Status Bonus and retire under the Redux plan, or turn down the \$30,000 in exchange for retirement under the High-3 Plan. This is a personal decision and the best answer depends on your specific situation.

The good news is that you have options, and there is an unbiased source of help to figure out what is the best decision for you. This help is in the form of the "Redux Decision Calculator," which can be found at <http://pay2000.dtic.mil/> under the "Retirement Choice link. More information is also available through the military personnel flight at 536-3326.

Although your supervisors are, and should continue to be the primary source for career development and assistance, additional help is available through the Career Assistance Advisor's office in Bldg. 150, Room 112, or by phone at 536-5528.



16 pin on stripes in February

These Brooks airmen were promoted in February:

TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Melissa Gillette
U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine
Paul Hagarty
USAFSAM
Victoria McLain
311th Medical Squadron
Jesse Moreno
USAFSAM

TO STAFF SERGEANT:

Karen Foster
68th Intelligence Operations Squadron
Damon Hutchins
68th IOS

TO SENIOR AIRMAN:

Matthew Failace
68th IOS
William Fink
68th IOS
Joseph Friesenhahn
311th Security Forces Squadron
Olivia Ketchum
68th IOS
Jefredes Price
USAFSAM
Adrian Sheppard
68th IOS

TO AIRMAN FIRST CLASS:

Dale Hodge Jr.
311th Human Systems Wing
Trent Lachance
68th IOS
Pierre Nelson
Air Force Research Laboratory



11 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 28, Bldg. 538 — “Individual Retirement Account (IRA Seminar)”

A continuation of “Investing For Your Future” series. The kind of future you and your family will have depends on the decisions you make today. The future will not take care of itself.

Start planning for your future by attending this class which describes the types of IRAs, how to open one, who is qualified, and other aspects of investing for your retirement.

9-11:30 a.m., Feb. 26, Bldg. 538 — “TROA – Marketing Yourself for a Second Career”

A dynamic presentation highlighting various issues associated with the job search process. Learn to network successfully to get access to the hidden job market. Discover important strategies to gain favor over your competition. Utilize information and effective tactics in the salary negotiation process.

Call 536-2444 for reservations or questions.



Air Force people take care of their own through AFAF contributions

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) — The 2001 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Feb. 26 and runs through March 30. "Commitment to Caring" is the campaign's permanent theme.

Last year's contributions totaled nearly \$4.3 million. The Air Force goal for the 2001 AFAF Campaign is \$3.4 million.

The annual AFAF campaign raises money for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families.

The organizations are:

- The Air Force Aid Society.
- The Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc.



— The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund.

— The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made through cash or check contributions or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four

charities and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

For more information on the AFAF campaign, check out its web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund, then click on "Fundraising."

Call Brooks AFAF campaign chairman Capt. Kari Gissel at 536-1703 or 1st Lt. Nora Merritt at 536-9023 for details.

COMMISSARY CLOSES

Continued from Page 1

The closures will reduce the total number of DeCA stores to 281.

DeCA officials said commissaries listed for closure fall under previous Base Realignment and Closure initiatives, and/or are older, smaller facilities with reduced numbers of active duty customers. Sierra Army Depot and Kelly Air Force Base, for instance, were named in the 1995 BRAC.

Active duty service members and their families are the primary beneficiaries of DeCA's worldwide grocery operations, officials said. The Brooks, Pope AFB and Richmond stores are closing because of reduced active duty strength, Ford noted, while Cutler now has no active duty assigned to the installation.

"The review considered the number of active duty customers, the

nearest commissary, the future installation mission, commissary sales and operating costs, and facility conditions," Ford said.

He reiterated that most customers affected by the closings, to include military retirees, will be able to shop at other commissaries, many nearby. Lackland Air Force Base's large commissary can serve former Brooks and Kelly customers, he said.

Patrons of the Richmond, Va., store could use the Fort Lee commissary.

"We recognize the importance of the benefit to our patrons and encourage them to shop at their nearest commissaries," Ford said.

For more information about DeCA, see the organization web site at <http://www.commissaries.com/>.



Buffalo Soldiers set up camp at Brooks

By 1st Lt. Jessica Joyner
Brooks African-American Cultural Association

The 80-or-so Sinclair Elementary School students who sat on the lawn across the street from the base fire department and ate a picnic lunch Feb. 9 knew they were having a great time -- they just didn't know the history behind the Buffalo Soldiers encampment next to them. But they soon learned.

The encampment, sponsored by the Brooks African-American Cultural Association, is an annual event marking Black History Month. The San Antonio Buffalo Soldier's Association's 9th Cavalry demonstrated their living history. The soldiers set up a tent display, weapons display, period artifacts and a presentation of the history of the Indian Wars, but the most effective displays were the soldiers themselves, decked out in period uniforms.

The event was attended by Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, and his wife, Kate; Col. Roy Ruff Jr., 311th HSW vice-commander, Col. George Small from the Development Center for Operational Medicine and other senior staff.

Highlight of the event was when Small was inducted as an honorary Buffalo Soldier.



Col. George Small, left, was inducted as an honorary member of the Buffalo Soldiers during the annual encampment Feb. 9. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez)



A member of the San Antonio Buffalo Soldiers' Association's 9th Cavalry explains one of the many exhibits to interested visitors.



Youth literacy targets Brooks for mentors

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Comments? rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil

While Brooks has an active mentorship program, a local organization is seeking volunteers here to help students in elementary schools located near the base.

San Antonio Youth Literacy, a nonprofit community service organization founded in 1984, has launched its "Let's Read" program in southside schools where few volunteer mentors currently serve. "Let's Read," an acronym that stands for Literacy Enrichment Training Support Reading Enjoyment And Development, is the YMCA after-school care program's official literacy component.

"The program is a collaborative effort to provide children with a brighter future by increasing their reading skills," said Stephanie Habern, SAYL's "Let's Read" program director. She said "Let's Read" potentially will serve over 4,000 students enrolled in the YMCA after-school care program that supports several local school districts.

Brooks volunteers are being sought specifically to help students at Inez Foster Elementary School, 6718 Pecan Valley, and Pecan Valley Elementary School, 3966 E. Southcross.

Anne Boswell, SAYL's executive director, said her organization is reaching out to Brooks AFB for help because the base has a highly educated workforce who historically support community outreach initiatives such as science fairs.

She said the strength of "Let's Read" is in its partnerships. Among program supporters are the Spurs Foundation, San Antonio Express-News, the Hearst Foundation, San Antonio Junior Forum, San Antonio Area Foundation and the Alex and Sally Halff Family Foundation.

Both Boswell and Habern believe that early childhood literacy intervention will help reverse a trend within Bexar County involving illiteracy and students dropping out of school. According to a Texas Education Agency report, 27 percent of San

Antonio's adult population is functionally illiterate, which means they can not read or fill out a job application.

Habern said, "My dream for the program is to reach kids at a young age, to increase their literacy development, enjoyment and commitment to reading." She said volunteer reading partners work one-on-one with elementary school children specifically targeting the grade-appropriate objectives of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, better known as TEKS. "That's what separates us from other mentorship programs. We provide volunteer tutors specially trained in TEKS," Habern said, explaining that the program simultaneously supports what is being taught in the classroom.

Habern, a former elementary school teacher and Boston Herald columnist on family issues, launched "Let's Read" as a pilot program during the 1999-2000 school year. Only schools that had a YMCA after-school care program and whose principals requested tutors were involved.

SAYL staff quickly realized that the need for help outstripped the program's resources. "Our first year, we targeted 70 schools. Of the 60 trained tutors, only 37 regularly volunteered. We realized our approach was too broad. Now we're focusing on a smaller community of schools," Habern explained.

Besides Brooks, SAYL is soliciting support from southside citizens' groups, corporations and community service organizations. "We're asking companies to come together as a group to support neighborhood schools," Boswell said, noting that it's in their best interest to help develop a future literate workforce.

SAYL provides a free onetime, two-hour training workshop on-site at organizations that guarantee a minimum of between 10-15 volunteers and a maximum of 30. Candidates for the program must clear a criminal background check.

Once trained, "Let's Read" tutors are provided with all the tools they'll need to help students in one-hour-per-week sessions. "We provide them with a 'black box' containing a mini-library and art supplies. We also provide them with lesson plans," Habern said.

Boswell said the program is founded on accountability. "Volunteers track the progress of students," Boswell said in describing tutors who are required to document TEKS objectives they have addressed.

"Our tutors are a great group of people," said Boswell, adding, "Let's Read supports any child who needs extra help."

Those interested in becoming tutors can call SAYL at 299-1533, by fax 299-1550 or visit their web site at www.SAYL.org.

From left, Stephanie Habern and Anne Boswell, from San Antonio Youth Literacy, examine materials used by volunteer tutors in their organization's "Let's Read" program. (Photo by Rudy Purificato)





Youth services center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Baseball season is just around the corner. Registration is from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday now through March 16. Cost is \$25 plus a \$15 youth center membership fee. Nonmembers will be \$40 for the season.

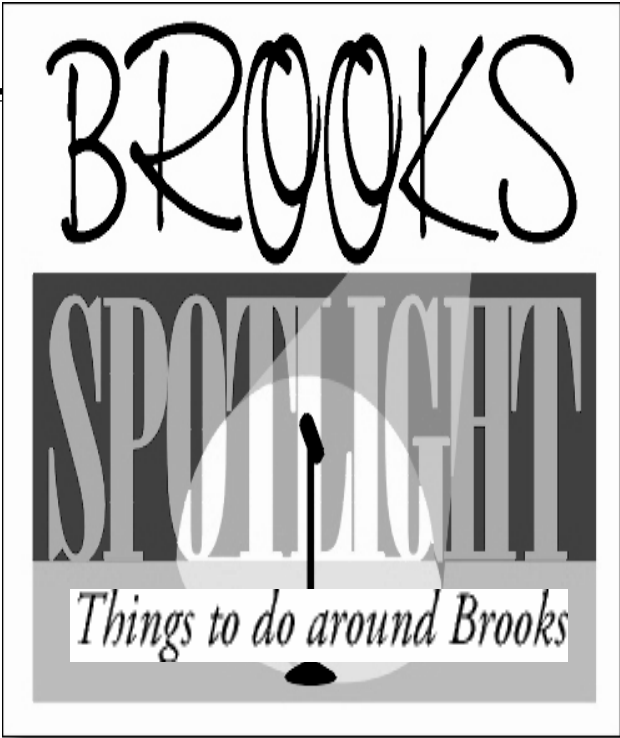
Boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of baseball plus have fun playing regulation games. The age groups will be T-Ball — 5-6 years; Coach Pitch — 7-8 years; Mustang — 9-10 years; Bronco — 11-12 years; and Pony — 13-15 years.

Coaches are needed to help the center teach our youth about pride, teamwork and sportsmanship. Anyone interested in being a volunteer coach can contact Larry Flores or the youth center staff.

FrameWorks

Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

Check out the consignment program at the center. If you are looking for gifts for St. Patrick's Day,



By Jan McMahon
Community newswriter

Easter or Administrative Assistant's Day (formerly Secretary's Day) then stop by The FrameWorks.

Marketing & Publicity

Bldg. 1154, 536-8057

— Summer Bash 2001 10th Anniversary Poster Contest

This contest is open to all base people and their families. The design will be used on a poster, flyer and promotional materials that will be used command-wide to promote Summer Bash.

Divisions are adult and youth, ages 6-9, 10-13 and 14-18. Entries will be judged on originality of design, clarity of message and quality of work relative to age. Elements that should be included are Sandy the Dog, words that include Summer Bash and reference to the 10th anniversary.

At base level, a winner from each age category will be selected. Winning entries will then be forwarded to Air Force Materiel Command headquarters. Winners from all bases will be combined for the command level judging. One adult and one overall youth poster will be chosen to use for promotional purposes.

Individuals may enter as many times as they wish but each entry must have a separate entry form. There will be one overall youth winner and one adult winner. Command level prizes will be \$300 and a framed poster-size print of winning work for the adult winner. The youth winner will receive a portable CD player and a framed poster-size print of winning work.

Entries must be submitted to Services marketing by close of business March 8. Base level winners will be forwarded to command and overall winners will be announced by March 25. There will be one overall youth and winner and one adult winner.

For more information contact the marketing office at 536-8057 or 536-5475.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Aerobic Fitness Classes

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 a.m.	Step		Combo		Step	
10a.m.						Combo
11:30 a.m.	Kick Box	Step	Combo	Step	Kick Box	
5 p.m.	Step	Kick box	Step	Step	Kick Box	

Class time is one hour.

Combo: Challenging combination of cardio aerobic and strength exercises.

Step: Workout utilizing basic steps and creative combos on an adjustable platform.

Kick Box: Intense cardio and endurance workout including boxing and martial arts.

Contact the fitness center staff for more details on aerobic classes or other programs offered.

It's official —
68th IOS is
'outstanding'

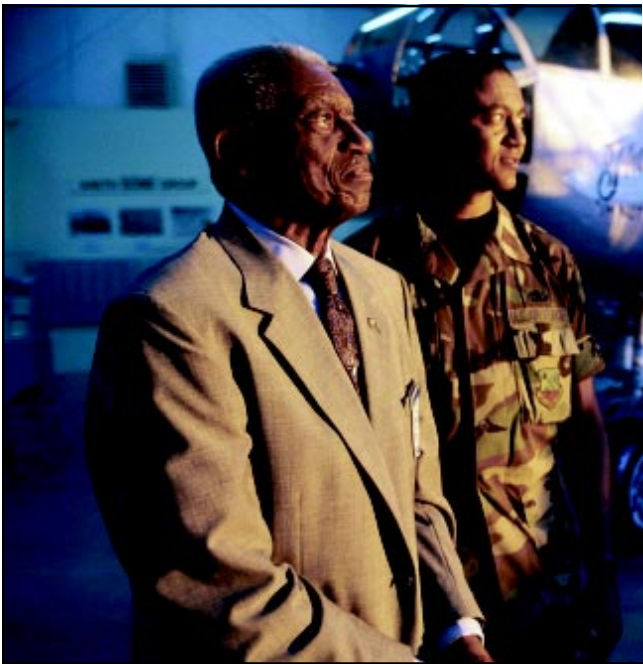
It's official. The 68th Intelligence Operations Squadron is able to meet and sustain all mission-related tasks, according to the results of its recent mission effectiveness inspection by an Air Intelligence Agency Inspector General team. The 68th IOS received excellent ratings in both finance and operations security, and an outstanding in the intelligence oversight area, earning them an overall solid satisfactory rating.

During the MEI, the unit conducted a deployment exercise that was highly dependent on Brooks support services for success. Base services were, therefore, critical to the IOS success. The 68th IOS commander, Lt. Col. David

Ripley, said, "I want to extend my personal thanks to the Brooks Team for its support."

The following individuals were recognized as professional performers: Tech. Sgts. Emmett Gonzales and Calvin Johnson, Staff Sgts. Christopher Bain, Jeremy Goen, Donald Goudy, Sean Otoupalik, Mel Roberts, Jimmy Scott and Russell Cantu, Senior Airmen Jennifer Shultz, Jennifer Martinez and Brandy Williamson, and Airmen 1st Class Casey Davis and Jason Drehobl.

This was the last squadron-level inspection for the Air Intelligence Agency Inspector General team before the AIA merged with the Air Combat Command in February.



Retired Senior Master Sgt. Dan Summers Sr., an original Tuskegee Airman, and his son Maj. Dan Summers Jr., Arizona Air National Guard, look out at the sun setting while at the Pima Air Museum in Arizona. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Lasky)

By Tech. Sgt. John Dendy IV
Airman Magazine

When retired Senior Master Sgt. Dan Summers basks with his son, Dan, in the golden company of 1940s-era warplanes, he recalls life with the Tuskegee Airmen flight training program as a junior, but vital aircraft maintainer.

“Perfection existed on our flightline. Our integrity ensured it,” Summers said.

A 22-year-old hotshot aircraft mechanic displayed history-making courage as he and 29 other African-Americans arrived on a muddy work site 13 miles outside the Tuskegee city limits.

He found his machinery in crates. His government housing was a tent in the cold air of an Alabama pine forest. This man’s outfit was not wanted in America, but the patriot stood tall.

“That was my introduction to Tuskegee,” retired Senior Master Sgt. Dan Summers said.

Yes, Tuskegee, as in “The Tuskegee Airmen,” the African-Americans trained largely by fellow African-Americans for status as airmen within the Army Air Corps of 1940s America.

Like many republics, the United States had a legacy of ethnic tension. The sort of injustice our country rebuffs today. Tuskegee helped give diversity a fighting chance in America.

Summers maintained the base’s warplanes from 1942 to 1945, as both a civilian and an enlisted service member. Now comfortably retired in Tucson, Ariz., he is one of only several hundred living Tuskegee warriors left.

That first cadre of African-American technicians repeatedly wrenched results from a flight of mostly rebuilt training aircraft. Civilian and enlisted members outnumbered officers 10-to-1, but they got no “ink” for posterity. It is as if they did not exist.

One must “unentomb” details on the technicians from well-preserved yearbooks in the chests of the Tuskegee veterans’ homes. They show freshly shaven faces like Summers’ and the first enlisted African-American meteorology, chemical warfare and aircraft maintenance airmen.

Young Summers entered this system by chance. Studying at Virginia’s Hampton Institute had him strapped for tuition. So he left school to toil in a steel foundry. A year before the war, he traded that job for a mechanic’s post at Pennsylvania’s Olmsted Air Depot. He was an apt pupil.

“I was interested in the airplane from a mechanic’s standpoint, rather than a pilot’s,” Summers said.

By the 1941 Christmas season, the bookish technician got wind of an outlandish project to determine if ethnicity was a factor in the flying business.

In May 1942, the War Department manifested Summers and 28 more black aircraft workers on a contracted Pullman car train. Porters drew the blinds for security as the train wove south to a new military stop at Chehaw, Ala. The technicians went to their airfield site in Army trucks.

Quality of life was not good for Tuskegee’s civilian maintainers. They had to scrap for housing in the area. Only African-American landlords opened their homes and hearts.

“The first year, paydays came sometimes a month late. People we rented from understood, because they had been through [discrimination] themselves,” Summers said.

Summers worked hard in his rookie Air Corps season. His team of civilians and airmen had lots of old warplanes to make over. People at the busy base bonded over maintenance sessions. They furiously fixed flight controls on worn, sky

blue-bellied, open cockpit Stearman training biplanes and the ubiquitous BT-13 Vultee monoplanes. Unforgiving but agile, the enclosed cockpit Vultees were known as “Vibrators” for shaking airmen violently at low speeds.

“The people assigned to Tuskegee made Tuskegee,” Summers said. “Our airfield probably had more enlisted people with college experience than any other. They knew inspections and aircraft.”

His first encounter with Tuskegee cadet and later-Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James Jr., was “accidental.” (James was a World War II instructor pilot and veteran of more than 179 combat missions during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.)

“I ran the crash crew for a while and this cadet couldn’t get his gear down. They foamed the runway, and he came in with his gear up.

“When we got out there, here was this cadet [James] just sitting cross-legged on the wing of the airplane. I was wondering who it was,” the incredulous airman said.

Summers’ crash crew found a broken emergency “up-lock release” cable inside the metal of that P-40 Warhawk fighter plane — and respect for James.

“People took a personal interest in the airplanes and each other,” he said. Usually, the flight chief would meet the airplane along with the crew chief. ‘Never put a sick airplane to bed.’ That was the philosophy. You got it well, then put it to bed, or you’d lose your job in a hurry.”

“It wasn’t always pleasant,” Summers reflected. He also said such experiences make integrity his favorite measure of an airman’s worth. “Perfection existed on our flight line,” Summers said. “Our integrity ensured it. We put lives on the line at 10,000 feet.” (AFPN) (Courtesy Airman Magazine)

A Black History Month commentary

What I learned, but did not know

By Tech. Sgt. Phillip Copeland
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I’ve learned as an adult that there is so much more African-American history than was taught to me as a child. I was taught about African Americans such as Frederick Douglass who was born a slave, but escaped and became a leader of African Americans in the 19th century.

I remember school lessons about how Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery, and by way of her “Underground Railroad,” led other slaves north to freedom.

Civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King laid down their lives to pave a path to fair and equal treatment among our citizens during a pivotal time in American history.

These are all great people in history, but there are so many more not mentioned. There is so much African-American history I did not learn as a child.

Sure, I learned about Alexander Graham Bell, but not Lewis Latimer, who lived from 1848 to 1928. Born in Boston to an escaped slave, Latimer executed the patent drawings for many of Bell’s telephones.

The textbooks taught about Benjamin Franklin, but I do not recall mention of Benjamin Banneker, an African-American mathematician, astronomer and inventor. Appointed to the District of Columbia Commission by President George Washington in 1790, he worked with Pierre L’Enfant, Andrew Ellicott and others to plan the new capital of Washington, D.C.

Explorer Matthew Henson became the first African American to reach the North Pole while on an expedition with Adm. Robert Peary in 1909. As the leader, Peary got the credit, but contemporary accounts claim Henson reached the pole first.

As a child, I did not learn what NAACP means, much less the history of the organization. W.E.B. Dubois, a civil rights leader, editor and scholar, founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. Today the organization remains a powerful guard against racism.

Did you know Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune-Cookman College for African Americans in Florida? I didn’t. She helped to educate thousands of African Americans and served as an adviser to the president of the United States.

Past history books did not teach of Charles Spaulding, president of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. His company offered life and health insurance coverage for African Americans when other companies refused to insure them.

In 1916, inventor Garrett Morgan rescued workmen trapped by a tunnel explosion under Lake Erie. He entered the gas-filled tunnel wearing a safety hood he had patented two years earlier.

That hood was a forerunner of the modern gas mask. Every day you see this man’s influence in another way — Morgan patented the automatic traffic signal in 1923 and sold it to the General Electric Co. for \$40,000.

I did not learn about Dr. Charles Drew, who developed a process for preserving blood as plasma and started the first blood bank. He taught at the Howard University Medical School in Washington and made major contributions to surgical medicine.

Before I joined the Air Force, I did not know most of what I just discussed. My family did not teach me. Neither did my schools. It was my fellow airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines, members of the greatest military in the world, who’ve taught me an entire culture of people will not be deprived of its place in history.



Wilson

Brooks Personality PROFILE

Teamwork, teamwork and more teamwork



FULL NAME:

Tech. Sgt. Julius Andre Wilson

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

*NCOIC, Network Administration,
311th Communications Squadron*

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

Ensure that people can surf the Internet, email (though I'm hoping otherwise) their favorite jokes of the day, and connect to other local/long distance computer-related resources

BIRTHDAY:

April 20, 1965

HOMETOWN:

Houston

FAMILY STATUS:

A 3-piece and a biscuit (three beautiful children and an even more beautiful wife)

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF: "Jay"

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Teamwork, teamwork, teamwork, and even more teamwork!"

INSPIRATIONS:

Muhammed Ali, my family, and anyone who exhibits strong professional leadership skills

HOBBIES:

Collecting 1950s, 60s and 70s music and film; volunteer work for Boys & Girls Club of America, watching classic movies and reading

PET PEEVE:

Any individual who thinks he or she transcends the overall team

I JOINED THE AIR FORCE:

I've always been fascinated with the military

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:

*"The Autobiography of Muhammed Ali,"
"The History of the Green Berets" and
"Vietnam: The 10,000 Day War."*

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

To make master sergeant, retire and take my wife on the ultimate honeymoon

ULTIMATE GOAL:

Run for and win a district council seat in Houston; publish a bestselling book

IF I WON THE LOTTERY, I'D:

Give half to my mother and the other half to my wife (they manage the money better)

FAVORITE CARS:

1957 Chevy, 1965 Thunderbird

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Classic R&B, Jazz

FAVORITE ACTOR, ACTRESS:

Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett

LAST MOVIE WATCHED: "Shaft"

ONLY MY BEST FRIENDS KNOW THAT:

I was, at one time, the only junior high sophomore to win a state-level competition for high school newspaper editors

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:

The family unity my wife and I have built

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:

My dedication, integrity and ability to work with, and lead people

By Cerise Fenton

311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

Comments? _cerise.fenton@brooks.af.mil

First it was strong parents, then strong teachers, and later, strong supervisors who had such an impact on an impressionable young man. Now, it's his turn. Tech. Sgt. Julius Wilson, the noncommissioned officer in charge at the 311th Human Systems Wing Communication Squadron's Network Administration is all about strong leadership. From the morale in his organization to his personal dedication to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, it's clear that Wilson truly believes in the power of teamwork.

With 17 years in the information technology career field in the Air Force, Wilson has witnessed firsthand the evolution of the digital age, and the changes it's brought to the military. The resulting independent atmosphere of today's workplace makes people that much more important to him.

"Technology has its goods and bads," he said. "It's just phenomenal what you can do with technology today. A person can go right on line and get a college education from behind a desk. That's an advantage, but it also creates a divide as far as the human factor is concerned."

So Wilson spends his time trying to bridge the gaps, both in the Air Force and the community through a concept of leadership, teamwork, and fairness. To him that means leading by example and sharing what he's learned.

"When leaders and mid-level managers stop letting new troops know why we're really wearing the uniform, it's over," he said. "Anybody can be a leader. You just have to care. We have people we answer to, and I try to tell my people 'have some composure about you because there will always be somebody watching.'

"The key is integrity as a leader. We work hard and I expect a lot, but teamwork is utmost, and I think that plays a role in the minds of youngsters. If you're a part of a true team environment you'll kind of want to stay around. People could play a good part in retaining these young folks if they would take an active role with them as a group, as a team."

Wilson does that by holding quarterly breakfasts and "Weekend Wind-downs," Friday afternoon get-togethers at the club after duty hours. At work he encourages teamwork by equally distributing duties and responsibilities, and carrying his share of the load, including three operational pagers, when it's his turn.

"I would never ask them to do what I wouldn't want to do myself," he said of the tight-knit team at work. "No one person here transcends the team. Even the newest airman can come in with innovative ideas and know it's going to be put on the table and considered."

Wilson believes learning is a lifelong process, and there's a lot to be learned from the younger generation.

"Any time you cut off from learning and think you know it all you might as well roll over and die because learning is a never-ending process," he said.

It's also a two-way street, he added. While he's learning from the younger generation, he's doing his best to pass on what he has learned. From ethical values, leadership skills, and life experience to computer technology.

When he isn't at work or spending time with his wife and three children, Wilson can be

found in the community, primarily on the east and west sides of San Antonio working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The "computer man," as he's known near San Antonio's East Side Club, is taking his computer skills to the children of neighborhoods with less economic resources.

"Find an economically depressed area of town and that's where you'll find Jay Wilson," he said. "This is a cause I really believe in. If those kids out there don't have the same resources as the some of the more fortunate kids, it's not the kids that are really going to suffer, it's America as a country that suffers."

Before the Boys and Girls Club Wilson dedicated nine years of his time to the DARE program in different communities where he was stationed.

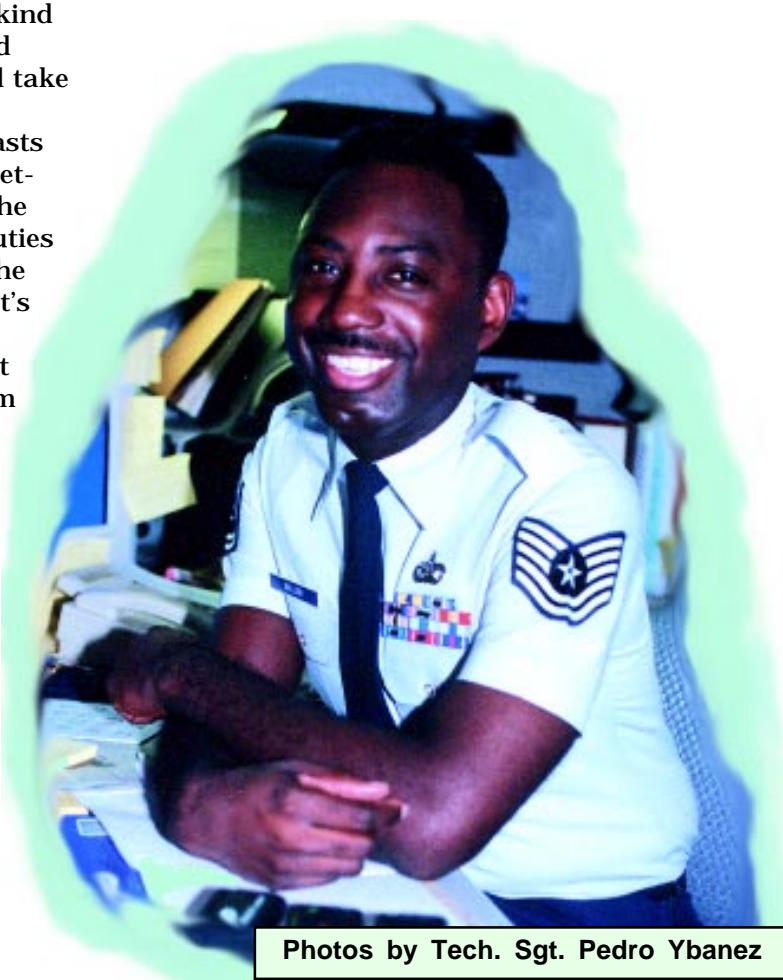
"It goes back to teamwork. In today's society, you just can't afford to be exclusionary or prejudiced," he said. "The one kid you turn your back on may be the one that stabs you in the back." After all, he points out, the children we're raising today are the children who will be running the world when we're old.

Whether it's in a personal or professional capacity, Wilson strives to be the best he can be, and give 100 percent in all he does. He attributes his success, at least in part, to his wife who, he says, prepares him very well for everything he has to deal with everyday.

"I'm doing what I want to do," he said about being in the Air Force, working with the community and sharing his life with his family.

"What I'd really like to do one day is teach or run for political office," he said. He intends to do that once he retires from the Air Force and returns to his roots in Houston. Maybe he'll even put to use the writing skills which made him the first high school sophomore to win the Editors Cup, a state-level competition for junior and high school newspaper editors.

For now he'll stay at Brooks, still learning from the visionary leadership at the communications squadron, and being a part of what he says is one of the best teams he's seen yet.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez



AFCEE illustrator ‘MAD’ about his distorted art



AFCEE’s Chuck Brewer displays one of his recent caricatures. *(Photo by Rudy Purificato)*

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing
Comments? rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil

Chuck Brewer is ‘MAD’ about his distorted art, inspired by the irreverent magazine by the same name that launched fellow caricaturists’ careers.

“I admire the work of MAD magazine’s Mort Drucker and Jack Davis, who I feel are among the top caricaturists in America,” he said of the retired legends who’ve influenced his work.

Becoming a caricaturist has transformed this former introverted cartographer into a free-spirited humorist who enjoys exaggerating real life.

“I see the world in a humorous way. I started doing caricatures at Kelly Air Force Base as farewell gifts,” said the 61-year-old audiovisual specialist for the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence’s Public Affairs Multimedia Division.

Born to a coal mining family in Columbus, Ohio, Brewer’s metamorphosis into a fun loving ‘comic of art’ didn’t occur until his mid-40s.

“My mother wanted me to be a draftsman,” Brewer said of a profession that suited his analytical personality. However, the seeds were sown for his future caricaturist career when in 1958 he became an Army draftsman.

“To warm up for drafting work, I’d do pencil-point ‘doodles’,” he said. His talent didn’t really surface until after he had become an Army illustrator and cartographer. Following his civil service reassignment to Brooks, Brewer turned his hobby into a part-time off-duty career.

“In 1994, I was visiting Market Square when I saw Gabe Chavez sketch caricatures. I told him, ‘I admire your work. I wish I could do that’,” Brewer recalled. Chavez said, “Here, take this pen and draw me. You have to do it in 3-5 minutes.”

Unprepared for the challenge, Brewer drew the ‘happy face’ logo instead. “He laughed, then asked me if I would like to go to work.”

Brewer was flattered and motivated by the offer. “It takes a certain kind of personality to do that kind of work. You have to have courage to draw things ‘on the fly’ and have a salesman’s attitude.”

Chavez trained Brewer, focusing on proportion techniques. “The key is this: whatever your first impression is, draw it! The degree of distortion is based on Chavez’s philosophy: ‘You distort in a humorous, complimentary way’.”

Brewer dislikes the ‘slice and dice’ style of political caricaturists whose images of people are often negative, outrageous exaggerations. Instead, Brewer prefers staying within the artistic bounds of propriety. “I base everything on a standard head, then distort it no more than 20

percent,” he explains. He said his most difficult caricatures are of people he knows and those who have plain features.

“I usually do the faces first. It took me a year of doodling to develop my style.” With Chavez as mentor, Brewer quickly progressed while working weekends as a sidewalk artist.

Brewer’s amiable personality was a perfect fit for this sideline occupation. “Timing is essential in caricature art. To do it right, you sketch very quickly to achieve the full impact of a customer’s reaction to the drawing.” Brewer is now extremely ‘quick on the draw.’ His fastest time is 30 seconds.

“I visualize, then my hand just draws. I don’t think about the final product. It’s almost like a reflex,” he said, adding, “Caricature art builds confidence. You have no eraser.” Tools of the trade include Crayola-like non-smear color sticks and black and white felt-tipped design markers.

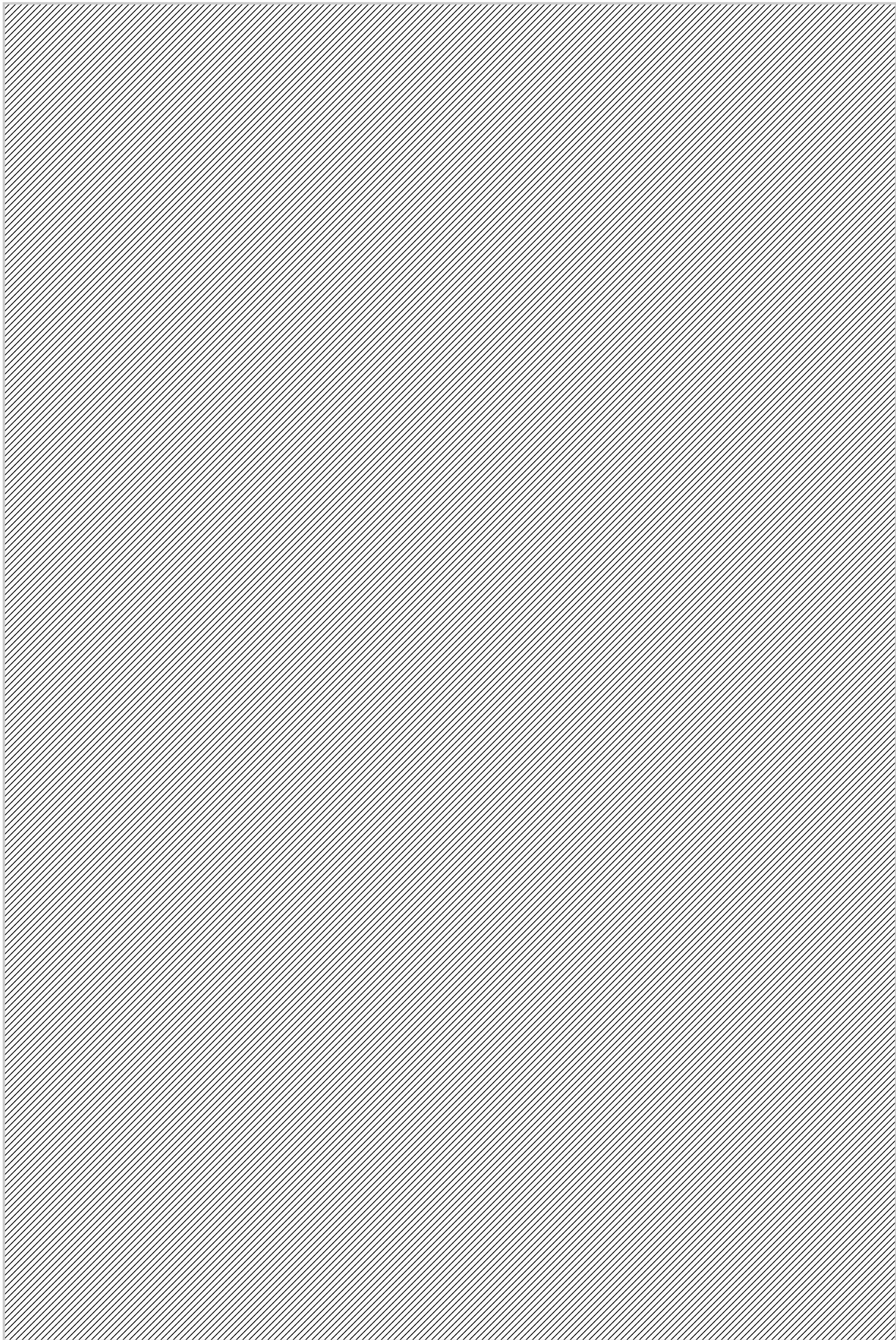
Brewer developed two quick sketch techniques. “I try to draw a trait real quickly while watching 30-second to 2-minute TV commercials. I also take one quick glimpse of a person from 50 feet away. This helps me focus. You have to be a good observer.”

He prefers quick sketch spontaneity to planned caricatures. “I have to see a moment, then in an instant I draw.” Once a structured disciple of precise draftsman design, Brewer now is freewheeling.

“The drawing brought out a whole new personality in me. As a draftsman, I was quiet. Now, I’m very talkative and outgoing. I’ve become a different animal,” he said.

Brewer sees his art as both educational and therapeutic. “The thing I get out of this most of the time is making people forget the hardships of the day for a few seconds.”







YA defends hoop title, beats MSS for base crown

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing
Comments? rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil



311th MSS' forward David King grabs a rebound.

controlled the boards," said first-year YA coach Greg Martin, who helped YA win last year's base title as a player.

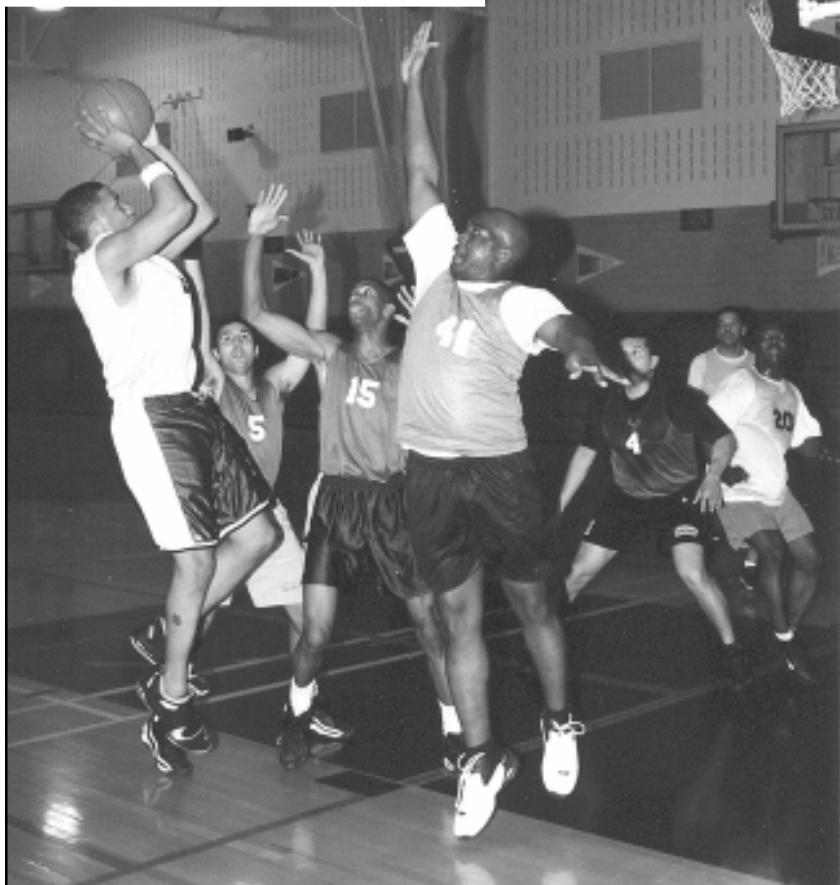
Martin said MSS's athleticism made it tough on his team. However, it was YA's hot hand at the free throw line that greatly contributed to their victory. "We hadn't hit free throws all year. It was nice that we hit them today," Martin said.

YA's balanced attack also proved to be too much for MSS. Moore had a game-high 15 points, center Ron Davenport contributed 11 points and forward Thad Amundson chipped in 10 points.

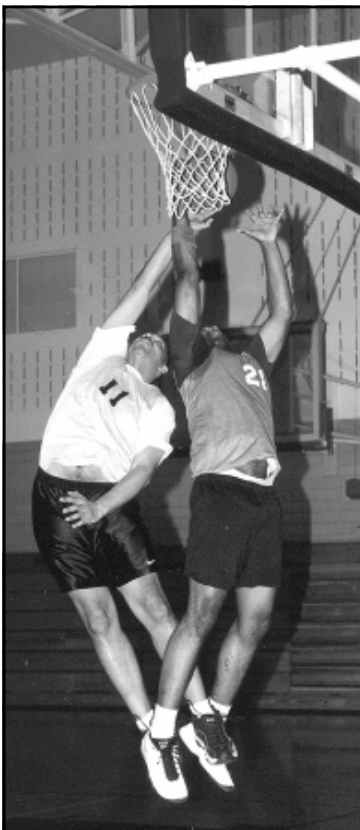
MSS coach Daniel Hernandez wasn't too disappointed about his team's performance, knowing they gave it their best shot in trying to dethrone the defending champs. "This was the first time in many years that we made it to the finals. We planned a 'run and gun' strategy, hoping we could overcome them with our speed and quickness," Hernandez said.

His team reached the finals by upsetting favored 311th Security Forces Squadron, beating them in the last seconds of their semifinal contest by three points.

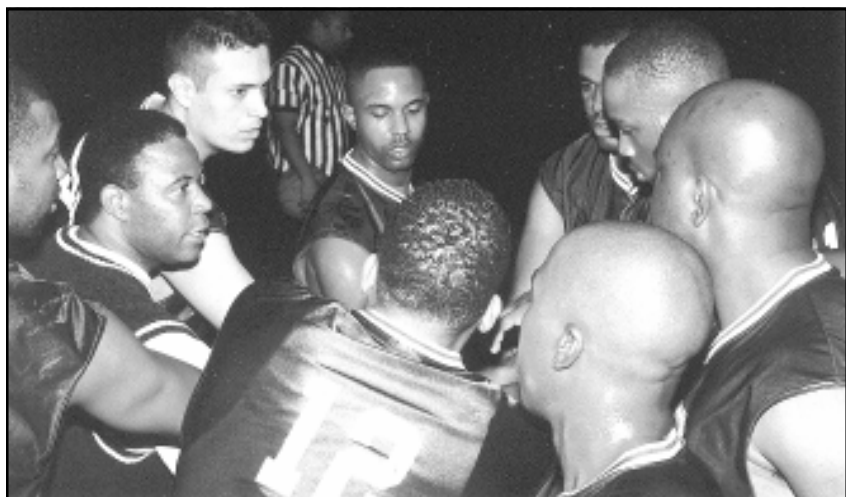
While MSS players' emotions ran high, they were no match for YA's experience and talent. "We had a lot of turnovers," Hernandez said, adding, "We [also] didn't do too well at the free throw line." MSS's leading scorers, forwards Ken Sneed and David King who scored 14 points apiece, missed the majority of their free throws.



Top photo, from left, MSS' forward David King takes a shot as YA's guard Mike George, forward Va'shon Moore and center George Clark contest the shot. YA's forward Ruben Gomez and MSS' forward Ken Sneed look on.



Left photo, MSS' forward Tom Williams tries to block the shot as YA's center Ron Davenport leaps for the basket. (Photos by Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum)



Coach Cecedrick Scott (second from left) encourages his team on the way to a come-from-behind victory over Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. (Photo by Rudy Purificato)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Comments? rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil

The biggest surprise opponents will see at the Air Force Materiel Command men's basketball championship tourney Wednesday-Thursday at Kelly Air Force Base will be that a Brooks squad has even showed up to play.

Many naysayers doubted Brooks would even field a team in the wake of losing former coaching legend Larry Glover to reassignment. Nobody believed when a new coach took over that the Brooks team would have enough players who were competitive and committed to finishing the regular season.

Coach Cecedrick Scott and his supporting cast have proven everybody wrong. Now they are poised for a run at much more talented and experienced AFMC teams.

"We're not far off from being a major contender. If we take what we learned during the regular season and play hard and smart, we'll take the fight out of our opponents," Scott said.

Always the realist, Scott knows that even a team with 'a lot of heart' such as his has the odds stacked against it. The team has only a few AFMC tourney-seasoned veterans.

"There's no quit in them. The team has developed some gutsiness; this will be reflected during the tournament," Scott said. This quality was created over the course of a losing season in which a

Varsity hoopsters' season eventful, planning AFMC tourney surprise

squad in transition experienced player injuries and defections while trying to develop that ever elusive team chemistry.

"We started the season with a considerable number of new players and few returning veterans. We didn't win as often as we would have

liked, but our team showed a tremendous amount of patience," said Scott, who faced the daunting task of essentially building a new team. He had sacrificed his plan of joining the team as a player by becoming coach, ensuring the team would have a season.

"I give thanks to him, because if we didn't have a coach, I wouldn't be playing," said team spark-plug and first-year player Colby Benjamin. The starting point guard, added, "Nobody here wanted to coach the team when Glover left. He [Scott] stepped up to the plate to do it. I respect him for that."

Securing the confidence of players and building team confidence were among obstacles Scott encountered. "I learned that the passion you bring to the game as a player you should also bring as a coach," he said.

The team was dealt a crippling blow when veteran star power forward Rob Taylor quit.

Scott didn't have time to lament player losses. "During the season, the players and I learned about ourselves and the game. We go into the post season with the maturity we gained that hopefully will result in us performing to our abilities."

Benjamin said, "Team chemistry is the hardest thing [to achieve]. Air Force players have a different set of priorities than high school or college players. Their families or work comes first."

A turning point came during the Holloman AFB game. "That game showed me we can come together to win," Benjamin said, adding, "You have to give

it your all every time you take the court. We have a lot of ability. Unfortunately, we didn't 'turn it on' every time we went out there."

Brooks' forward/center Junell Dumes said the team compensates for lack of a player depth with intensity. "While we don't have all of our players, we make up for it by playing extra hard," Dumes said.

They now have to make adjustments. Benjamin is questionable due to a broken nose, and power forward William Lawrence is ineligible for the post season because he's a civilian.

"If we play smart, potentially we can be successful during the tourney. During the season, we made up for being outsized and overmatched in talent by playing smart," Scott said.

The coach was cautious in making a prediction, knowing that confidence is the key to winning. He said, "When we believed that we could persevere, we did."

SPORTS shorts

Youth Basketball Jamboree

Brooks youth who want to showcase their hardcourt talents have until Feb. 22 to sign up for the 18th Annual Youth Basketball Jamboree. Sponsored by the San Antonio Spurs and conducted by the Kids Sports Network, the event last year attracted 48 youth teams from throughout the city.

"We fielded five teams last year," said Larry Flores, youth sports director. There was a mixture of coed, all-girl and all-boy teams ranging in age from 7-14 years old.

"Ten-member teams play two, 10-minute games on mini-courts at the Alamodome," Flores said. Jamboree participants also compete in "FANFiesta," a series of interactive basketball fun games.

To enter, teams must purchase at least 30 tickets to the Spurs-Hawks game, and submit a registration form and \$50 deposit to the Kids Sports Network.

Brooks youth have already formed several teams for the event. Brooks families interested in forming their own teams must register by Feb. 22.

Contact the Kids Sports Network at (210) 654-4707 or by email at volunteers@ksnusa.org.

AACA Scholarship tourney

Hook, slice or get serious during this four-person best ball tournament that features prizes from the greatest to the latest.

Tee time is 11:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at the Brooks golf course. Fee is \$25 per player. Call 536-4931 to sign up.

Proceeds from this tournament, sponsored by the Brooks African-American Cultural Association, support the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship.



NBA 2-ball competition

The National Youth Games is teaming up with the NBA to bring NBA 2-ball.

It works this way: a team of two will have 60 seconds to score as many points as possible from various predetermined spots on the court.

Boy and girls are divided into age groups of 8-9 years and 10-11 years. The local level competition is a 2 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Laden Center, Riverside Baptist Church, 111 Topeka, San Antonio.

To sign up or to obtain additional information, call the Brooks Youth Center Staff or Larry Flores at 536-2515.

Don't be fooled by weight loss products

By Capt. Risa Riepma

Brooks Health and Wellness Center

If you visit a health food store, sit in front of the television or listen to the radio for a short time, you will likely be bombarded with ads promoting weight loss products. The ads might say, "weight loss guaranteed" or "quick and easy." The weight loss industry is a multimillion dollar industry that feeds off of the millions of Americans who are trying to lose weight. Is there anything wrong with using these products?

The first question to ask yourself is: "Do I feel safe taking a product when I don't know the ingredients?" You may think that if a product is on the market and bottled for sale, than it must be safe. This is not necessarily true. Many of these products, including Body Solutions, are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. What does this mean to you? These unapproved products are not regulated and the amount of herbs they contain are not standardized. Although herbs are natural, they are strong substances that can have potentially harmful side effects.



Which herbs should you avoid? There are hundreds of herbs, many of which have unknown efficacy or safety. One to be familiar with is Ma huang. Ma huang, an ancient Chinese herb, is a substance that has been linked to heart attacks, strokes, tremors, insomnia and death.

It is also known as ephedra and is found in many weight loss supplements such as Body Solutions' Atomic Energy, Metabolife 356, Chroma-Slim, Diet Fuel, Ripped Fuel and Metabolift.

What these manufacturers do not tell you is that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has compiled a list of more than 800 adverse events and documented at least 17 deaths linked to Ma huang.

Don't be fooled and don't think these potentially harmful effects can not happen to you. If you're trying to lose weight, do it the smart way. Talk to a registered dietitian or health care provider who can assist you reach your goals safely. Remember: if something seems too good to be true, it likely is!

For more information on nutrition, health, and wellness, call 536-2581.



SPORTS trivia

The answer to last issue's trivia question was Angelo Dundee. He was (and still is) the trainer and manager for many boxing champions, including Muhammed Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard. Lisa Williams, Jay Wilson, Tom Kuhn and defending champion Tom Ray all got it right.

2001 standings are:

T1. **Staff Sgt. Tom Ray, Tech. Sgt. Tom Kuhn and Lisa Williams** — 2 points

T4. **Tech. Sgt. Jay Wilson, Staff Sgt. Jared Isaacs, Rob Sullivan and Mel Waldgeir** — 1 point

T8. **Senior Airman Sean Houghton and 2nd Lt. Eric Dosser** — 1/2 point

Here is question No. 3; this time the subject is football:

3. **Who threw the first legal completion in football history?**

- a. Knute Rockne
- b. George Parrott
- c. Chris O'Brien
- d. Ronald Reagan

Bonus question No. 1:

What was his nickname?

Bonus question No. 2:

Who caught the pass?

Bonus question No. 3:

What was his nickname?

Here are the rules:

QUESTIONS: Trivia questions for our contest are derived from many sources, therefore it is not possible to quote any one source. If there is a disagreement as to whether the question and answer are correct, contact the *Discovery* and we will consider your request. All decisions made by the *Discovery* staff are final.

ANSWERS: Answers must be received by the *Discovery* staff by close of business the Friday the week after the *Discovery* is published. In other words, you have a week to decide and email us at Discovery@brooks.af.mil. All entries received after that date will be discarded. If you don't have access to email, you can fax your answers to 536-3235.

SCORING: All correct answers are worth one point. All incorrect answers are worth half a point. This is done for two reasons: to help keep tie scores from happening and to give those who take the time to enter some recognition for their efforts. If there is a bonus question included, a correct bonus answer is also worth one point and an incorrect one is worth half a point. However, you must answer the original question correctly to be eligible for bonus points. The person with the most points after the last issue of the year will be declared the winner of the *Discovery* Sports Trivia contest. In the event of a tie, the person with the most correct answers during the year will be the winner.



Varsity hoop duo a test in team 'nuclear fusion'

Benjamin, Dumes radiate confidence for the 2001 varsity season

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Comments: rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil

While scientists are years away from using nuclear fusion as a new energy source, the Brooks varsity men's basketball squad has already joined together two dynamic elements who form the nucleus for a future championship team.

Like a nucleus' protons, the positively charged Colby Benjamin and Junell Dumes' pairing has produced enough energy to propel a team in transition. The 311th Security Forces Squadron policemen possess college-level hoop skills and a winning attitude.

"I'm always talking a lot on the court. I want everybody [teammates] to be in the same groove that I'm in," Benjamin said.

His energy and enthusiasm are electric. As Brooks' starting point guard he has become a lightning rod for a squad of relatively new players who are just now coming together as a team.

He said, "I can do more than score. If a teammate is open, I'll get the ball to him. If you don't have a team working together, all you have is a group of individuals."

In a style reminiscent of San Antonio Spurs' "Little General" Avery Johnson, Benjamin doesn't mince words when discussing commitment to the game. He said players who play basketball as individuals, rather than for the team, are better off playing pickup games at the gym where there are no coaches or responsibilities.

Determination and discipline form the glue that keeps Benjamin and Dumes from traveling out of their orbits. Dumes said, "I learned in high school to be determined, that I could work a lot harder than I [believed] I could, to accomplish what I set out to do."

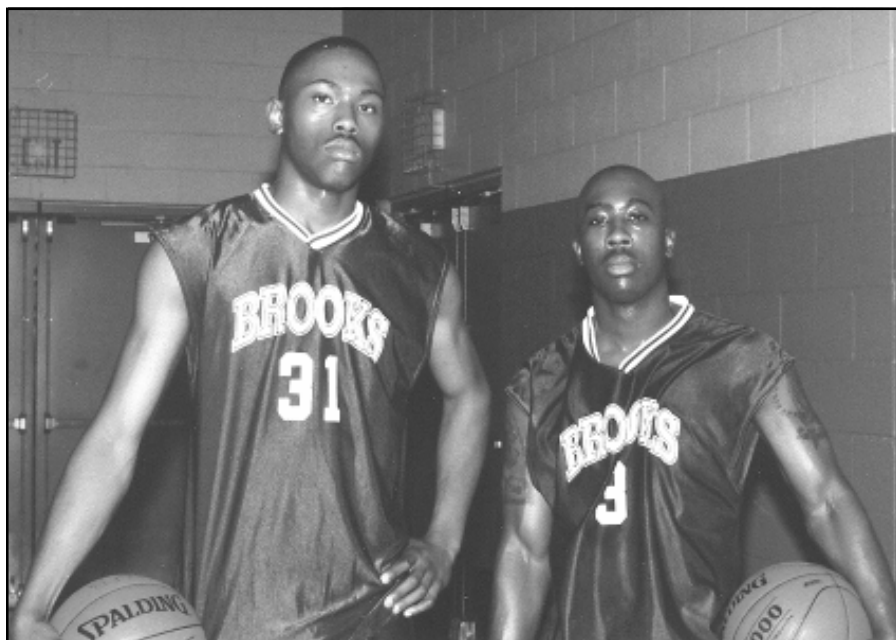
What Dumes and Benjamin are determined to do is help develop a winning Brooks basketball tradition. That means winning championships on the strength of total commitment and unceasing devotion to hard work in perfecting the game's fundamentals.

Benjamin's recent close encounter with an opponent's knee to his face is an example of how he devotes himself to winning. In a tourney game against Fort Sam Houston, Benjamin used his lightning quickness to steal the ball. "I ran past the ball, which took a bad bounce. I turned to get it and ran right into a knee that broke my nose," he said.

At the time, Benjamin and Dumes were trying to engineer another comeback similar to what they had accomplished earlier in a stunning 77-62 come-from-behind tourney victory against Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Both players share a fierce desire to win. Benjamin, who turned 20 years old Feb. 8 and Dumes, who will be 20 in June, have similar upbringings where competitiveness is considered a virtue.

Born the youngest of five children to William and Selma Benjamin in Houston, the future hoop star began playing basketball as a YMCA league 8-year-old. He eventually made perennial Houston powerhouse Northshore High School's varsity team in his fresh-



From left, Junell Dumes and Colby Benjamin form the nucleus of a future Brooks championship team. (Photo by Rudy Purificato)

man year. As a starting sophomore point guard, he led the Mustangs to the state 5A finals.

"It helped me as a player to compete at that level. I learned to focus on the team and to block out any distractions," he said. He credits Mustang coach Randy Weisinger for helping him mature as a player.

"He taught me work ethics and to always be determined."

Benjamin eventually was selected First Team All-District in District 22-5A and was also named to the Second Team, All-State. Florida A&M University was among several colleges that tried to recruit him.

By his junior year, Benjamin had become a team leader, averaging 23 points per game and earning offensive and defensive player, First Team, All-District honors.

However, he realized that a future NBA career was unlikely, opting instead for the security of an Air Force career when he enlisted in 1999. He plans to become a chemical engineer.

"Robert Garcia recruited me for the Brooks team," Benjamin said of the veteran varsity player who has shown true leadership by helping young players develop, including Dumes who he has worked with on dribbling skills.

Dumes is a member of a basketball family. His father James was a star Pepperdine University player whose career-ending injury prevented him from accepting offers from the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers. His mother Von is a former Columbia State College starting forward, and younger brother James is a starting guard at San Antonio's John Jay High School.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., the 6-foot, 7-inch Dumes began playing basketball at age three. "My father worked on my jumping skills. He'd make me shoot 120 jump shots a day." His parents stressed conditioning, commitment and education.

Dumes' career started in 10th grade as a power forward for Nebraska's Omaha Central High School. He led the team in blocked shots and rebounds for three consecutive years.

"I learned a lot of discipline and physical and mental toughness. I became a team player and learned to play smart," he said. The University of Nebraska was among several colleges that tried to recruit him. However, Dumes' uncle and aunt, Master Sgt. Reginald Harwell and Chief Master Sgt. Stephanie Harwell at Scott AFB, Ill., convinced him to join the Air Force.

"They wanted me to establish myself financially and eventually play basketball for the All-Air Force team," Dumes said of his plans, also shared by Benjamin. Former Brooks coach Larry Glover, who recruited him for the varsity squad, told Dumes to try out for the All-Air Force team which the latter plans to coach in 2002.